

Appln. No.: 10/033,224
Amdt. Dated July 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated May 19, 2005

The shipping station 26 similarly may include one or more computer terminals to which a scanning device 32, electronic scale 34 and mailing label printers 36 may be attached. Preferably, the printers are capable of printing the necessary shipping documents, bills of lading, manifests and so forth, as well as the appropriate package labeling. If desired in the alternative, the package label may be preprinted (e.g. at the packing station) and the scanning device 32 may be used to read the label and thereby automatically enter the package identifying number into the system."

Nicholls is using a UPC code to identify a package and to give the package a name and number so that the package identifying number may be automatically entered into the system.

Godin discloses the following in lines 21-41 of column 3:

"There are several aspects which have to be addressed to maintain security of information maintained in the database server 22 as well as the banking system shown as 28. A firewall 20 prevents any user 8 from accessing any of the components behind the firewall 20. In this way the users have access to the web server computers 10 and 12, but only have access to the database server through the firewall 20. The database server maintains, amongst other things, various database fields with respect to each of the products which are slated to be auctioned. As shown in FIG. 4, these data fields include a UPC code, a product description, an auction date and time, a current quantity, a starting price for the auction, a closing price for the auction, a large product image, a small product image, product carry, warranty cost, a minimum cost, a designation whether a warranty is available, an auction end time, a product catalogue, a product weight which is used as part of the shipping costs, an extended product description, a product street price, a product vendor allocation as well as an auction produce number."

Godin discloses a product weight as part of the shipping cost but does not disclose anything about the packing material and container.

Godin discloses the following in column 3, lines 31-41:

"As shown in FIG. 4, these data fields include a UPC code, a product description, an auction date and time, a current quantity, a starting

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price for the auction, a closing price for the auction, a large product image, a small product image, product carry, warranty cost, a minimum cost, a designation whether a warranty is available, an auction end time, a product catalogue, a product weight which is used as part of the shipping costs, an extended product description, a product street price, a product vendor allocation as well as an auction product number."

Godin discloses a reverse auction system in which the weight of the product is a part of the shipping cost. Godin does not disclose how to determine the weight of the package and, therefore, the cost of mailing the package.

Neither Nicholls nor Godin, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the system and method claimed by Applicant in claims 3-17, namely, a system and method of returning a weight from a weight field of a database wherein said database has at least one data field for storing a set of data relative to a corresponding article, packing material, and container, and wherein said set of data comprises at least said weight field.

For instance, the cited art does not disclose steps (c), (d), and (e) of claim 3, which read as follows:

- (c) transmitting a query from said routine to said database for a weight associated with said corresponding article, said packing material, and said container;
- (d) returning said weight to said routine; and
- (e) displaying the cost to ship the article, packing material and container.

and steps d, e, f and g of claim 5, which read as follows:

- d) transmitting a query from said routine to a database located at a second node for a weight associated with said each one of said one or more articles and said container;
- e) returning said weight to said routine for use in calculating a cost for shipping said each of said one or more articles and said container;
- f) entering said weight into a second data field of said shipping system application as an input parameter; and
- g) determining said cost for shipping said each of said one or more articles and container based upon a set of one or more input parameters.

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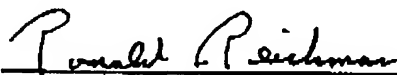
For instance, the cited art does not disclose or anticipate the query disclosed by Applicant in:

Line 12 – line 19 of Page 20 of Applicant's specification read as follows:

"The next three subscreens (305, 307 and 309) provide the numeric and text information that enables the present invention to operate. Subscreen 305 contains data entry lines labeled F1, F2 and more. Each line has fields for both the UPC code assigned to the contents item, as printed on its label, or found in its description. The "F" lines are filled in with either the UPC or a description until all the items are accounted for. The next subscreen 307 deals with the mail piece container. At least one "G" line must be selected, and either the UPC number entered or the description. The next subscreen 309 deals with the packing and tape used to form the mail piece/container. At least one "H" line must be selected, and both the UPC number entered and a description of what was consumed."

In view of the above, claims 3-17 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, the resolution of which he believes would be advanced by a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,


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